

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 11, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation:**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*

*National Preparedness Level = 5*

- *Northwest Area Command (Williams-Rhodes) is managing the following large fires:*
  - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 28,904 acres, 20% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
  - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 11,179 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
  - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 53,315 acres, 87% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 23,497 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 43,000 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 35,000 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 57,570 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,150 acres, 45% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
  - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,300 acres, 95% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 36,950 acres, 75% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 25,110 acres, 90% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 25,202 acres, 74% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,707 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 26,307 acres, 62% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*

- *Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 11,425 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Gold 1 – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis. Last report until significant activity or fire is controlled.*

**B. Initial Attack**      *Minimal initial attack – 2 new fires 10,209 acres*

**C. State Forecast For Montana**

**\*\*\*STRONG WEST WINDS 30 TO 45 MPH ARE LIKELY THURSDAY MORNING THROUGH EARLY THURSDAY EVENING ALONG THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT AS WELL AS EASTERN PONDERA AND EASTERN GLACIER COUNTIES. IN ADDITION WINDS WILL GUST TO 60 MPH AT TIMES ALONG THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT.\*\*\***

**STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT  
403 AM MDT THU SEP 11 2003**

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

**TODAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Scattered Rain Showers...Mainly In The Mountains North...Isolated Mountain Rain Showers In The South. Highs 61 To 71.**

**TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy. Breezy Conditions Subsiding By Dusk. Scattered Rain Showers. Lows 39 To 49.**

**FRIDAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. In The North...A Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. In The South...A Chance Of Morning Rain Showers... Decreasing To A Slight Chance By Afternoon. Highs 55 To 65.**

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

**...High Wind Warning Today For The Rocky Mountain Front And Adjacent Plains...**

**TODAY - Partly Cloudy And Windy. Scattered Mountain Showers West. Highs In The Lower 60s To Lower 70s. West Winds 30 To 45 Mph With Gusts To 60 Mph Northwest...25 To 35 Mph Elsewhere.**

**TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Chance Of Rain Showers. Lows In The Lower 40s.**

**FRIDAY - Partly Cloudy And Breezy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs In The Mid 50s To Lower 60s.**

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

**TODAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Highs In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.**

**TONIGHT...Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers. Lows In The Upper 30s To Lower 40s.**

**FRIDAY - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Cooler. Chance Of Rain Showers And High Mountain Snow Showers. Highs In The Upper 40s To Lower 60s.**

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

**TODAY - Partly Cloudy. Windy West. Highs In The Mid 60s To Mid 70s.**

**TONIGHT - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers North And West. Lows In The 40s.**

**FRIDAY...Mostly Cloudy. A Chance Of Showers South. Highs In The 60s.**

**III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

***The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:***

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03

Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral	<b>Granite</b>
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula	<b>Park</b>
Lake	Cascade	Pondera	<b>Ravalli</b>
Lewis & Clark	Chouteau	Powell	<b>Stillwater</b>
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole	<b>Sweet Grass</b>
Sanders	Meagher	<b>Beaverhead</b>	

*Declaration of Economic and Injury Disaster #9W74 has been amended to include all counties listed above in the State of Montana as an economic injury disaster area due to the effects of forest fires. Applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the counties of Carbon, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Madison, Silver Bow, Wheatland and Yellowstone may also be filed. The deadline for filing is May 26, 2004.*

*The declarations and amendments may be found on the web at:*  
<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/presidentialeo.asp>

#### IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources		
Montana Army Guard	EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
<b>NG SOLDIERS</b> <i>63 Soldiers Assigned</i>	<b>23 Transport and Cargo Vehicles</b>	<b>Air Guardsmen</b> <i>26 Airmen Assigned</i>

#### Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0800-1700 daily.

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

#### V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)